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April is Autism Awareness Month

In a Policy Brief entitled *Health and Healthcare Access among Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual Disability: 2015-16*, Dr. Henan Li, PhD, used data from the 2015-16 National Core Indicators (NCI) Adult Consumer Survey to look at health and healthcare disparities faced by adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Dr. Li's research found that:

- Adults with ASD and Intellectual Disability (ID) reported poorer general health than the general adult population of the United States.
- About 29% of adults with ASD and ID reported at least one chronic health condition such as diabetes, hypertension, or high cholesterol.
- More than half of the respondents reported at least one diagnosis of mental illness/psychiatric condition. Among those, three out of five took medication to treat those conditions.
- Most respondents had access to primary care doctors, annual health exams, dental care, and vision care. However, access to different types of preventive health screenings were uneven.

The Policy Brief, released by the The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, is available [here](#).